

the United States and less than 25% that of Costa Rica. The Trust is the only real entity involved in land acquisition projects for conservation in Puerto Rico.

In the original plan, the Trust was funded by a fee imposed by the Secretary of the Interior on the petroleum industry operating on the Island. This financial arrangement existed for approximately 10 years but, as the industry left the Island, a new source of funding became necessary. In the mid-1980s to mid-1990s that source became Section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code and the so-called QPSII (Qualified Possession Source Investment Income) provision of that law. This allowed the Trust to ultimately generate an income that reached a peak of \$10 million annually. In 1993, the Trust realized that Section 936 might have a finite life span and halted all major property acquisitions and capital improvements. The Trust started saving money to build an endowment to fund the Trust in future years. It was estimated that approximately \$80 million would need to be accumulated to achieve this goal. To this day roughly \$30 million has been saved.

Unfortunately, Section 936, which did much to raise the standard of living in Puerto Rico and expand employment opportunities throughout the Island, was phased out, over my objections, by Congress in 1996. With the elimination of Section 936, the Trust was left without a source of income to continue the savings program. Several alternatives were explored and, after a great deal of consideration, a consensus developed among the Trust supporters here in Congress. A legislative proposal was developed, in conjunction with the Governor of Puerto Rico, the Secretary of the Interior and my office to accomplish this task with the proposal's funding mechanism being tied to the rum tax that is collected on rum tax entering the U.S. from the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. A portion of this rum is returned (covered over) to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and it was with a portion of this covered over amount that the Trust would receive funding for a five year period. It was the hope of me and many of my colleagues to implement a solution in this year's tax bill. Unfortunately, this did not happen.

Under the excellent leadership of its Executive Director, Javier Blanco and its Deputy Executive Director, Jose Barreto, the Trust has done a superb job with limited resources in fulfilling its mission. With this statement, I want to assure my colleagues that, should I be re-elected, I plan to continue to find an equitable solution to the plight faced by the Trust so that Javier and Jose can continue to do their good work.

TRIBUTE TO GEN. WALTER A.
CHURCHILL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 1998

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true patriot and outstanding American, Gen. Walter A. Churchill. On September 21, 1998, Gen. Churchill lost his battle to a series of debilitating strokes and passed away at the age of 94. He was a friend to us all. Yes, he

was a demanding General but even more he was a compassionate human being.

Enlisting in the Marine Corps at the young age of nineteen, Gen. Churchill remains one of only a few to rise to the rank of Marine Corps General. He retired on December 1, 1963, following 41 years and eight days of service to our country. In addition to his active membership in the Marine Corps League, Gen. Churchill established himself as a local political leader and a successful businessman in our district.

Gen. Churchill knew how to build community and a better future. He followed in the footsteps of his father and uncle in 1917, and managed a successful grocery business in northwest Ohio. He became the national leader in one stop shopping in 1971, when he opened the Monroe Street store. Always an innovator in the business world, Mr. Churchill has provided countless numbers of young people with the opportunity to earn money while attending college, and many retirees have found employment in his stores to supplement their retirement income. He was always helping others.

Mr. Churchill served as a loyal member of the Toledo Rotary Club where he maintained 37 years of perfect attendance. He served on the Board of Directors of the Toledo Better Business Bureau, the Toledo Small Business Association, and he served as president of the National Association of Retail Grocers. He was not just a member of these organizations but he was an activist. On many occasions, he traveled to Washington, DC to bring his views on national issues to those serving in elected life. He always came with a twinkle in his eye and a remarkable zest for life.

Gen. Churchill's commitment to his employees and our community, and his love for our country will be missed by all who had the pleasure to know him. A mighty oak fell when he passed from this life.

On behalf of our entire community, we extend deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Gen. Walter A. Churchill. He was "always faithful."

PENNSYLVANIA SENIORS NEED
MORE RELIEF WHEN IT COMES
TO HOME HEALTH CARE

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 1998

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, while today I generally support home health care measures added to H.R. 4238, the Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report, this solution actually does little to relieve the enormous cost being borne by Pennsylvania's senior citizens and the home health agencies that serve them. Pennsylvania is particularly affected due to the fact that it has one of the largest elderly populations in the country. According to home health agencies in my district, the interim payment system will eliminate approximately 294,500 visits to home bound senior citizens in Pennsylvania, a federal savings of \$486 million at the expense of Pennsylvania's elderly during the first year of the interim payment system. The current proposed interim payment system will restore only about 15 percent of the dollars taken from Pennsylvania beginning

in FY 2000. The new agreement is reported to cost \$1.65 billion with \$900 million to come from home health providers themselves by reducing future inflation factors. Thus, only \$750 million is new home health funding. Ironically, the contributions of Pennsylvania seniors (85 percent of \$486 million) is \$413 million more than half of the additional funding provided nationwide beginning in the second year of the interim payment system. This is a total injustice to the people of Pennsylvania. This issue must be re-addressed next year to help eliminate the enormous burden placed on Pennsylvania's seniors and home health agencies.

IN HONOR OF LAURIE FLAHERTY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laurie Flaherty, a distinguished emergency nurse, who has resided and practiced her profession in my congressional district and who has been recognized by her peers with an extraordinary Award.

Laurie Flaherty was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Emergency Nurses Association and inducted into its Nursing Hall of Fame last month at its annual convention in Denver, Colorado. This is an honor that has been bestowed on only twelve other nurses in the history of the organization. This great honor is a fitting recognition of the contributions Laurie Flaherty has made to the profession of nursing and to the health and welfare of our nation's citizens.

The Emergency Nurses Association drew special attention to Laurie Flaherty's roles as a teacher and author in pediatric emergency care. Association members extolled her work at the Department of Transportation where she designed and implemented a national strategy for safety programs. And finally, the Association chose Laurie Flaherty to receive these honors because she has never stopped being an emergency staff nurse. Whether in a helicopter in Wisconsin, in an ambulance in Santa Clara County, California, or now working at Suburban Hospital in Maryland, Laurie Flaherty has never forgotten that an emergency nurse must ultimately take care of those in need, one patient at a time.

Mr. Speaker, when the ENA honored Laurie Flaherty it was most fitting that they underscored her care and compassion for children. In addition to her expertise and experience in pediatric care, Laurie Flaherty's love and dedication to her daughter, Megan Flaherty, is a testament to what she considers one of her greatest lifetime achievements.

Mr. Speaker, Laurie Flaherty represents the best of a group of professionals that give their all to us every day in the emergency departments and trauma centers across our nation. We are exceedingly grateful to them, and today I'm especially proud to have you and our colleagues in the House of Representatives Join me in congratulating Laurie Flaherty, R.N., M.S., and C.E.N. on receiving this prestigious recognition from her peers.